

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 562

By Fincher

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize Billie Scott Cameron of Cookeville

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pay tribute to those venerable Tennesseans who have contributed greatly to their communities, thereby laying the foundation for future generations; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy and deeply admired individual is Billie Scott Cameron, a woman of great influence who has a host of stories about growing up in Tennessee in the early twentieth century; and

WHEREAS, born on September 18, 1914, in Cookeville, Billie Scott Cameron is the daughter of Joe Wheeler Scott and Permelia Farley and a sister to Leo, Ima, Ura, Anna Kate, Aubry, and Olan Joe; and

WHEREAS, growing up near Ditty Crossroads in South Putnam County, Billie attended grammar school at the Burgess School and went on to graduate from Cookeville City School; as a young girl, she helped on the family farm by caring for the farm animals, and she even had her own little chicken coop; she was also an active member of the 4-H Club; and

WHEREAS, Billie Scott Cameron vividly recalls a time when a snake slithered inside her chicken coop and stole the eggs; she tells the story of touching the snake's belly and feeling the unbroken eggs inside; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Cameron's favorite topics to reminisce on are her younger days back home at "Ditty"; she relays how her family would pluck the geese and the chickens, gathering their feathers to make a warmer feather bed to hold them through the winter, and in the hot summer months, they would chill their milk in a nearby creek; and

WHEREAS, attending a school with only three teachers, Billie Scott rode her horse to school every day until her brother, Joe, began driving a school bus; and

WHEREAS, she remembers how the mailman also used to come by horse and buggy to deliver the mail, and she tells how her father would always offer him part of their meat if they had recently butchered a cow; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Cameron's father kept bees, and she loves to tell nostalgic stories about the bees swarming and how she would procure honey from them; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from Cookeville City School, Billie Scott went on to attend college at Tennessee Polytechnic Institute, from which she graduated in 1936 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Education; in 1939, she graduated from Peabody University with her Master's Degree; and

WHEREAS, on June 26, 1938, Billie Scott was joined in holy matrimony to Clarence Arnold Cameron, a Cookeville banker who later became an attorney; to this blessed union were born two children, William Arnold Cameron, born in 1944, and Anne Elizabeth Cameron, born in 1947, both of whom went on to become attorneys; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Cameron began working as a teacher at Cookeville High School in 1939; when her children were grown, she went back to work as a teacher at Tennessee Tech University, where she taught business, typing, and shorthand; and

WHEREAS, an active community leader who devoted herself to improving the quality of life for others, Mrs. Cameron was one of the founding members of the Study Club in Cookeville; she has also given of her time and many talents serving with the Anne Cameron/American Cancer Society Golf Tournament for many years since the death of her daughter; and

WHEREAS, an avid and accomplished golfer, Billie Scott Cameron began playing golf in 1947, the same year she and her husband helped open the Cookeville Country Club; she has won many club champion tournaments as well as American Cancer Society state tournaments and other golf tournaments in the Middle Tennessee region; and

WHEREAS, one of her proudest moments in golf was when she made a hole-in-one at the old Richmond Golf Course in Nashville; she recalls standing with famed golfer Bobby

Nichols, trying to locate the ball, when he looked in the hole and started shouting, "It's in the hole! It's in the hole!"; and

WHEREAS, a woman with a rich history and a wealth of knowledge about her community, Mrs. Cameron enjoys riding around town, pointing to houses and naming the families who used to live there, reminiscing by telling cherished and often humorous stories of the past; and

WHEREAS, Billie Scott Cameron's favorite phrases that have become little trademarks of her own include, "Johnny on the spot," "smack dab crazy," and "sky-west and crooked," and when she wishes to bid you adieu, she will likely pull out another of her favorites and simply say "toodulum"; and

WHEREAS, she has been a faithful and active member of Cookeville First Presbyterian Church since her marriage in 1938; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Cameron is a highly revered woman in Cookeville, known for her strong faith and for her ability to see the good within everything and everyone; and

WHEREAS, when she is not golfing or working on a community project, Mrs. Cameron enjoys watching Tennessee Tech University sports, planting flowers, cooking, and quilting; and

WHEREAS, Billie Scott Cameron is a deeply dedicated Tennessee citizen who has given generously to her community and has invested herself in the lives and hearts of her neighbors, and she should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and recognize Billie Scott Cameron for a lifetime of achievement and compassion, thank her for meritorious service to the State of Tennessee, and extend to her our best wishes for every future success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.